

a nurse's work in hospital, before 10 o'clock, going round with the house-surgeon or physician in the morning, perhaps attending one or more operations, and then helping to get the dinners round, and tidy up, and put everything in readiness for the visiting staff in the afternoon, perhaps going round with them also if they happen to come punctually, nurses are not in the best condition for brain work by three or four o'clock in the afternoon. The night nurse is even less so. At the same time, speaking for myself, I was on night duty at the time of my final examination at a large London hospital. The examination was from 3 to 5 on consecutive days, and I don't think it occurred to any of us that there was anything out of the way in our being called up for it. We used to be called up every week for lecture in the same way. Nor did it occur to any one that we should have been the better for a cup of tea before or afterwards. But I really don't think we were any the worse nurses because we had to rough it a little. Indeed, probationers are so much considered nowadays that there is no weeding-out process, no survival of the fittest, as there used to be in the old days. Provided nurses do their work satisfactorily it appears to me all survive, for they could not be better, probably not as well, cared for in their own homes. When they go private nursing the shoe begins to pinch, the delicate ones begin to be weeded out then. But it is a question whether it would not have been better to get through this process earlier.

I am, Dear Madam,  
Yours faithfully,  
TRAINED IN THE EIGHTIES.

## Comments and Replies.

*A. B. C.*—We cannot but believe that the report is a gross libel.

*A Country Reader.*—We do not think that the desire for uneducated and ill-trained or untrained nurses originated with patients of the working classes, but with the well-meaning ladies and gentlemen who make up their mind that this hybrid person is what is required. We have never yet known a well trained and educated woman whose services were not appreciated as a district nurse; on the contrary, such a nurse always has a warm welcome in the houses of the poor. However, the general public have yet to learn apparently that inefficiency is not synonymous with cheapness, and that three months' training in midwifery does not qualify a person to nurse every kind of medical and surgical case. At present both the employers and the employed appear to regard it as an ample qualification.

*Three Years' Certificate.*—You would do well to obtain some experience in special branches of work, such as midwifery, and fever nursing before taking up private nursing. Private nurses are frequently required for cases of infectious disease, which of course they cannot undertake unless they have had the special training qualifying them for this branch of nursing.

*In Need of Advice.*—It is quite possible to get sufficient experience in a cottage hospital of 20 beds to make you a useful help at home in times of sickness, but you should not enter a hospital of that size if you intend to take up nursing as a profession, and with the idea of qualifying as a fully trained nurse. In this case you should apply for a vacancy as a probationer in a really good training school—say St. Bartholomew's Hospital, or King's College Hospital. You will probably have to wait for some time, but it is quite worth while to do so.

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